

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1909  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZAGREB 0287

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CPAS (WRACSRICHT, LAZAR) (AKA VRACARIC, LAZAR)  
SUBJECT: PASSPORT APPLICATION OF JULY 21, 1972

REF: BELGRADE 2180

SUMMARY: DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED BY GOY CONNECTION EXTRADITION REQUEST FOR LAZAR VRACARIC CONTAINS ITEMS OF POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE CONNECTION SUBJECT PASSPORT APPLICATION AND FURTHER UNDERLINES VRACARIC'S EVIDENT ACCEPTANCE AND PRESTIGE WITHIN LOCAL GOVERNING AND POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT. END SUMMARY

1. DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED BY GOY TO EMBASSY BELGRADE FOR AUTHENTICATION CONNECTION EXTRADITION REQUEST FOR LAZAR VRACARIC (REFTEL) CONTAINS NUMBER OF ITEMS OF POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN CONNECTION SUBJECT PASSPORT APPLICATION:
  - A. CERTIFICATE REGARDING VRACARIC ENTRY ON ZAGREB VOTERS' REGISTRY;
  - B. CERTIFICATE REGARDING OCTOBER 1957 ELECTION OF VRACARIC TO PRODUCERS' COUNCIL IN REMETINEC OPCINA (COUNTY) PEOPLES COMMITTEE;
  - C. A YUGOSLAV ARMY OATH PURPORTEDLY SIGNED BY VRACARIC ON AUGUST 8, 1949; AND
  - D. A 13-PAGE PERSONAL DATA CARD FROM THE YUGOSLAV ARMY'S POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION CONCERNING "RESERVE POLITICAL CAPTAIN" LAZO VRACARIC.

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2. THE MILITARY PERSONAL DATA CARD WOULD APPEAR MAINLY PREPARED ON OR AFTER MAY 19, 1949, WHEN IT STATES VRACARIC BECAME A "RESERVE POLITICAL CAPTAIN." (QUITE POSSIBLY ON AUGUST 8, 1949, WHEN ARMY OATH PURPORTEDLY SIGNED.) THE CARD DOES NOT ALLUDE TO COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERSHIP, BUT STATES THAT VRACARIC BECAME ACTIVE IN THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT ON AUGUST 15, 1941, WITH A "SHOCK GROUP" UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE "DISTRICT COMMITTEE IN ZAGREB." AS TO POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS BEFORE APRIL 1941, THE CARD STATES THAT VRACARIC WAS A MEMBER OF THE "UNITED WORKERS PARTY" IN 1935 AND ALSO OF THE "WORKING PEOPLES PARTY."

3. THE CARD STATES THAT VRACARIC BECAME A PARTISAN COMPANY COMMANDER ON FEBRUARY 15, 1942, AND SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED WITH PARTISANS AS "COMMISSAR," "INVESTIGATING JUDGE," AND MEMBER OF "INTELLIGENCE CENTER." HE HOLDS THE "1941 MEMORIAL MEDAL," "ORDER OF BRAVERY," "ORDER OF SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE, SECOND CLASS," AND "ORDER OF BROTHERHOOD AND UNITY, SECOND CLASS."

4. ACCORDING TO THE CARD, HIS PROMOTION TO "CAPTAIN FIRST CLASS" WAS PUBLISHED IN THE "OFFICIAL MILITARY GAZETTE" 1/62. THE CARD INCLUDES A NOTATION THAT VRACARIC WAS DECLARED "UNFIT" FOR FURTHER MILITARY SERVICE ON MARCH 28, 1962. VRACARIC, WHO WAS WOUNDED IN 1944, WAS FOUND TO HAVE A 40 PER CENT DISABILITY IN 1948.

5. THE CARD INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING REGARDING VRACRAIC'S POST WORLD WAR II CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT:

- A. FEB 1, 1945 TO MAY 9, 1949, ON DUTY WITH THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CROATIA;
- B. MAY 9, 1945 TO FEB 1, 1946, HEAD OF MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY'S PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT;
- C. FEB 1, 1946 TO FEB 1, 1947, INSPECTOR FOR INDUSTRY WITH THE CONTROL COMMISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CROATIA; AND
- D. FEB 1, 1947, BECAME VICE PRESIDENT OF THE HEAD COMMITTEE OF THE WOUNDED VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CROATIA. (THIS CONCLUDES CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT ENTRIES ON CARD.)

6. COMMENT: WARTIME ROLES AS "COMMISSAR" AND "INVESTIGATING JUDGE,"  
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POSITIONS IN CROATIA'S MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, SENIOR OFFICE IN VETERANS' BODY, AND ELECTION TO PUBLIC OFFICE FURTHER UNDERLINE EVIDENT ACCEPTANCE AND PRESTIGE WITHIN LOCAL GOVERNING AND POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT (ZAGREB OM OF MAY 18, 1973, ON SUBJECT). RFE'S RESEARCH REPORT OF APRIL 10, 1973, ON "POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF YUGOSLAVIA'S VETERANS" PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO ROLES OF VETERANS'

BODIES.

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